

# THE SABRES' BLADE

May 27, 1998

South Mecklenburg High School

8900 Park Road

Charlotte, North Carolina, 28210

Volume XXV

## Whichard wins Phil Hughston

By Andrew Buchert

On Tuesday, April 21, First Union National Bank presented the Twenty-seventh Annual First Union Phil Hughston Memorial Award to Karen Whichard as the outstanding female student-athlete in Mecklenburg County. The two other finalists for the award were Mifflin Jenkins of Myers Park High School and Deana Schroeder of West Mecklenburg High School.

Phil Hughston was an extraordinary student and athlete at Garinger High School who died from injuries sustained in a football game against South Meck in 1971. The award is presented annually in his memory to one male and one female who are accomplished in the areas of academics, athletics, service,

leadership, and character.

Whichard has played softball, volleyball, and basketball at South for three years. She was named Most Valuable Player and made All-Conference in softball as a sophomore, and received the Most Improved Player Award in volleyball the same year. As a junior she was made co-captain of the volleyball team and was given the Best Setter Award. Whichard was also the co-captain of the women's varsity basketball team this past season.

Karen is a member of National Honor Society, National Latin Honor Society, and is the treasurer of Beta Club. She is also the secretary of Inter-Club Council and the president of Proud and Working Sabres. Whichard is a co-editor of *The Sabres' Blade*.



Staff Photographer

Karen Whichard is a 1998 Phil Hughston Award winner.

The guest speaker at the ceremony was John Kasay, kicker for the Carolina Panthers. Well known for his motivational speaking, Kasay's values of faith and family are a solid foundation for his athletic success.

This is the second consecutive year that South has had a Phil Hughston Award winner. Last year the award was given to Michael Mauriello.

Whichard received a two-foot statue and an invitation to attend the ceremony each year and be recognized. "Winning the Phil Hughston Award is a tremendous honor for me," Karen said, "because it has given me the opportunity to represent the positive influence of my family, coaches, and teammates."

Whichard plans to study journalism at UNC Chapel Hill.

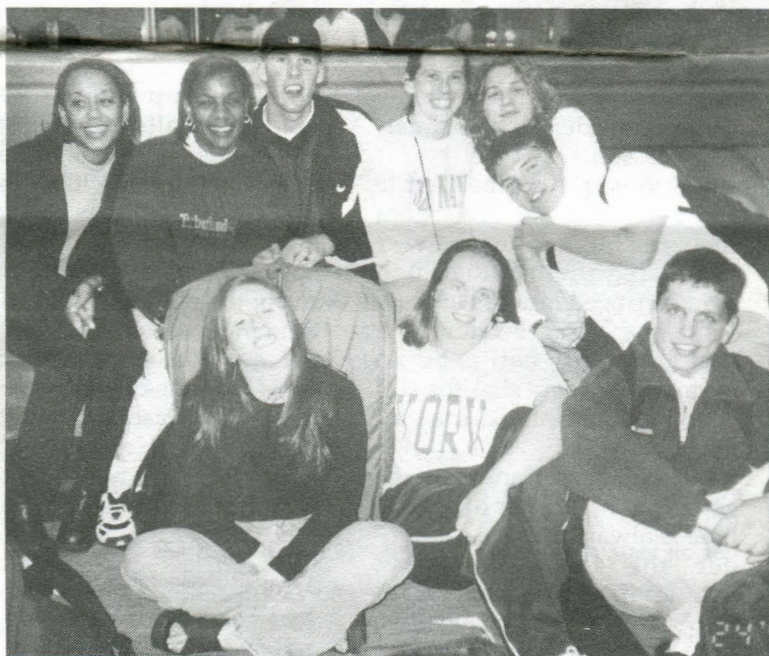
## DECA students compete in Denver, Colorado

By Jennifer Collins

On Friday, April 24, sixteen SouthMeck DECA students and their advisers, Mrs. Starnes and Mr. Shultz, began their long awaited journey to Denver, Colorado for the 52nd National Career Development Conference. All sixteen students earned this privilege through their success at the State Career Development Conference held in Greensboro, N.C. in March.

Over 12,000 students from all over the United States, Canada, Mexico, Puerto Rico, and Guam attended the Conference. Representing North Carolina were the following Sabres: Michael Ballenger, Jennifer Collins, Adam Dawson, Jason Edwards, Courtney Gerardi, Rachel Hockfield, Adam Howard, Jimmy Kimball, Josh LeQuire, Mary Llewelyn, Crystal Muse, Gina Robinson, Alicia Speller, Corey Waleski, John van Brederode, and Rachel Whitesell.

The National Conference was held at the Denver Convention Center, and was presided over by the DECA national officers. Besides competing in the weekend's events, the participants attended the Muscular Dystrophy Association Super Dance and Fashion Show, went to a Colorado Rockies-Florida



South sent sixteen DECA students to the 52nd National Career Development Conference in Denver.

Marlins baseball game, and went skiing at Breckenridge.

Mike Shanahan, head coach of the Super Bowl Champion Denver Broncos, motivated students with an animated speech and close look at the Heisman trophy during the opening session. Shanahan gave sound advice about competition and success, stressing perseverance, hard work, dedication, and a positive attitude.

Besides competition, a major aspect of the Conference was

social development and communications skills. To meet students from other states and countries, each DECA representative was given five state pins to trade with other participants. By the end of the Conference each student had traded his pins for those of other states.

Sunday morning, students sharpened their pencils and began their comprehensive one hundred question timed exams. The following morning students role played two event situations.

The performances included rehearsed presentations as well as spontaneous role plays. Regardless of the competition, months of practice came down to twenty minutes of performance.

The results were announced on Tuesday. Jimmy Kimball was a finalist in his comprehensive written exam and role play for Services Marketing Series. Crystal Muse was a finalist for Food Marketing Management and was an overall series finalist. Michael Ballenger was an overall series finalist as well. John van Brederode was finalist for Vehicles and Petroleum Marketing and was an overall series finalist. As a result of becoming an overall series finalist, Muse, van Brederode, and Ballenger had the opportunity to compete once again. John van Brederode placed within the top ten in the nation in this final competition.

South Mecklenburg was well represented by its sixteen competitors. But what is most important are the opportunities for growth and experience that Nationals provided to the students. The Conference had all the aspects of a professional trade show, and the representation of students from all over North America provided a diverse social atmosphere in which participants could further develop professional communication skills.

## Two selected to attend Governor's School

By Megan McKnight

Two South juniors were selected to attend the North Carolina Governor's School program this summer. Jenny Martelle was accepted in the area of Spanish and Andrew Buchert was accepted in the area of Natural Science.

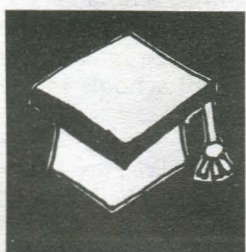
Governor's School is a six week summer program open to academically and intellectually gifted rising seniors. Students must be nominated by a teacher, principal, or counselor, and then be selected by their school superintendent as a finalist. From the finalists, Governor's School invites approximately eight hundred students from the entire state to attend.

Besides participating in intense classes in their specific selection area, Governor's School students also take classes in Philosophy and Self and Society. "I am looking forward to this summer as a way to increase my opportunities for the future," said Martelle.

"The Governor's School offers a unique opportunity for both academic and social growth," said Buchert, "and I feel honored to be selected to attend."

Seniors  
say  
goodbye...

Pages 6-7



Prom pictures  
are here!

Pages 4-5

Sabre  
baseball  
going all the  
way...

Page 8





## Offended by the N-word? Then stop saying it

By Leonard Pitts

As Richard Pryor told it years ago, he was sitting in a hotel lobby on a trip to Africa when he heard a voice within. "What do you see?" it asked. "Look around."

"I looked around and I saw people of all colors and shapes. And the voice said, 'Do you see any niggers?' I said, 'No.' It said, 'Do you know why? There aren't any.'"

Pryor told an audience that he started crying then. The comedian, whose speech had always been peppered with that ugly word, abruptly realized that it had not passed his lips in the three weeks he'd spent among the blacks of Africa. Pryor subsequently renounced the word altogether: The most profane man in America decided that here was a term too profane even for him.

I mention this only because there is a renewed struggle underway over the use and abuse

of the N-word. And it's left me a little ticked off at the blatant hypocrisy. Of black people.

I'm sorry, but I just don't get it. Over recent months, black activists have battled the people who put out the Merriam-Webster dictionary, a black educator has challenged Mark Twain's "Huckleberry Finn," and Spike Lee has lambasted Quentin Tarantino, all over the use and abuse of the N-word.

But I haven't seen anybody say a damn thing about black comics who fly it like a dirty flag. Haven't heard a peep about the tiny talents of raunch rap who spill it into the ether like sewage. Haven't heard anyone say the obvious: that if we as African Americans truly abhor this word, then the protest ought to begin on our own doorstep.

Yeah, yeah, I know the rules. It's OK for us to say it, but not for whites. Except that some young blacks say it is OK for whites if those whites are hon-

orary blacks, down with the brothers. Yet if those same whites mistakenly use the word outside their circle of black friends, they're likely to incite a riot.

I know the rules, but the rules are stupid. Contradictory. And confusing. If white people are baffled about what is and isn't allowed, I can't blame them. I blame us.

We've become entirely too casual, too gratuitous, with this instrument of disparagement. These days, one is less likely to hear the word from a white jerk with his bedsheet draped on his head than from a black one with his pants sagging off his butt. I once heard a young black colleague make a point of saying it in front of a white woman, who was properly flummoxed. The colleague explained with blithe self-satisfaction that she enjoyed dropping the word into conversation in order to observe white folks' stunned reaction.

All of which suggests to me

that we as black people suffer from historical amnesia. A blindness to the suffering of ancestors. And a stubborn refusal to learn the lesson Pryor did - to grow up and leave this evil thing behind.

So the last word some beaten black man heard before gravity yanked him down and the rope bit into his neck becomes a shock tactic for a callow youth. The word that followed his torn corpse as it was dragged down dusty roads behind the bumper of a car now serves some oafish rapper who can't find anything else to rhyme with trigger.

It suggests to me that behind the facade of arrogant cool, we still hate us.

That self-loathing is slavery's hardest legacy, Jim Crow's bastard child. And I'm impatient to see it dead. Here's a new and much simpler rule for the use of the N-word: Don't.

Leonard Pitts is a columnist for the Miami Herald.

## Early bell takes its toll on students

By Jay Parsons

For many teenagers in high school, the first period of the school day is nothing more than slamming the "snooze" button on their alarm clocks. Teachers are often amazed when they see students with their heads on their desks during what the teacher considers to be an interesting lesson.

Obviously, high academic achievers are not classroom snoozers; but has anyone ever considered the fact that high schoolers need more sleep than adults and younger children? A 7:20 a.m. tardy bell is by no means a welcome sign for students dragging into class to start their day.

With all that students have going on in and out of school, time is always hard to find under the football jerseys, cheerleading outfits, and instrument cases. One must also take the television, computer, car, and phone into consideration. Distractions, good and bad, are always there delaying students.

According to a recent publication, Albert Einstein slept for eleven hours a night. Studies conducted by Mary Carskadon of Brown University and Amy Wolfson of Holy Cross College showed that high school students need about 9.2 hours of sleep a night in order to do well in school.

"Kids can sit around in class and they look awake, but they aren't," said Carskadon in the Hartford Courant. "They needed to be asleep. Their [brains] functioned as if they were asleep," Carskadon said after measuring the brain waves of students at 6:30 and then again at 8:30 in the morning. According to their study, the average high school student gets 7.2 hours of a sleep a night, but one in four gets only 6.5 hours.

A study in Rhode Island of more than 3,120 teens showed

that "85 percent were sleep-deprived and accumulated a sleep deficit over the week," according to the Journal of the American Medical Association.

While elementary and high schools begin when the crickets are still croaking in Mecklenburg County, middle schools start up an hour later due to bus conflicts. The lives and activities of middle school students are nothing like those of their older siblings in high school. They have yet to have all of the hardships and homework of the big boys and girls.

Students need more sleep in order to fully utilize their minds. Why is the state of North Carolina one of the last ranked states in education? North Carolina educators see the numbers but won't make the changes to boost up the state's overall test scores.

CMS officials say that the reason high schools start so early is to accommodate sports and extracurricular activity schedules. By starting school at 8:30 a.m., after school activities will still have plenty of sunshine left before night falls.

Schools officially starting at 7:20 often translates to arriving at school much earlier. For bus riders and other students without the luxury of having their own car, they first step on school grounds looking at the 6:40 on their watches with heavy eyes. The buses are in such a rush that some students have to catch their bus at five in the morning in order that the buses can make another round for the middle schoolers.

While the immediate solution is flip-flopping the middle school and high school schedules, a long-term goal should be a plan for a more reasonable schedule for all schools in the School District.

Jay Parsons is the Web Page Editor of the Myers Park High School Hoofprint.

## Quick Take on Opinions

### Teachers' behavior harmful to students

If a teacher was to respond to a student who asked a question during class by saying, "I need to sign you up for the competency test if you don't know a simple question like that. It is hard to believe people your age exist who don't know the answer to that problem," the student must accept this comment.

Mean and critical statements affect students' self esteem and their feelings of self worth, and therefore thwart their educational experience.

I wish that all teachers had a clear understanding of decency, therefore it would be unthinkable to treat their students callously or with cruelty. If this is not reason enough to treat rule abiding students respectfully, then teachers should do it because they care about the success of the future generation.

Rebecca Farthing  
The Hoofprint  
Myers Park High School

### Prayer a quiet freedom

My religious convictions are the single most important factor in defining who I am. But from my perspective, if I believe that my God is supreme, then I believe His truth will prevail, without my classroom coercion. To use my position as a public school teacher to promote my own beliefs is a grave misuse of power. Do I think it is our duty to teach students about various cultures and their religious beliefs? Absolutely. Do I support teacher-led prayer or school employees advocating a certain religion within the classroom walls? Absolutely not.

Cynthia Vaughn  
The Wordsmith  
Ben Smith High School

### Pride or racism...The Confederate flag

On the dawn of April 12, 1861, the Confederacy opened fire on the Union's Fort Sumter in South Carolina. Two days later Major Anderson of the Union Army surrendered to the Confederates, and thus began the bloodiest war ever to touch American soil.

The Civil War divided the nation, with two armies, two flags, and two very different opinions. The Union flag meant freedom and, most of all, unity. The Confederate flag meant states rights and the yearning to build their own empire.

But in today's society the Confederate flag means something different. Most of the human population feels that it stands for fear and hate. Would the men who fought both for and against the Confederate flag want it to be used for hateful purposes?

Tamara Webb  
The Olympic Flame  
Olympic High School



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## Faces in the Crowd

### Smiling at success

By Karen Whichard

With a personality as big as her smile, Jackie Gause is a senior who embodies school spirit. She is vice-president of the senior class, working hard to improve South Meck for the student body.

Student Council is not her only claim to fame, however. She is a member of Sisters With Vision, NAACP, DECA, and Future Homemakers of America, winning proficiency and State Finalist at the state DECA competition in March. When asked about her work ethic, fellow student council member Corey Robinson said, "Her hard work keeps the rest of us going. She is full of wonderful ideas, and her creativity is impressive."

Jackie is a leader outside of school as well. She attends St.

Mark A.M.E. Zion, where she sings in the choir and is president of her Sunday school class. Jackie uses the rest of her time to volunteer through clubs at school. She also holds a job at The Great Steak and Potato Company.

Jackie's future is sure to be bright as well. It is no surprise that with her outgoing personality she plans to study communications. She will attend the University of North Carolina at Greensboro next year, where she will no doubt shine as a student leader and become a dominant personality on campus.

When asked about the key to her success, Jackie did not hesitate in naming her father. "He's very positive, and he trusts me a lot. Of course," she added, "my Mom's right behind."

### South's piano man

By Leah Reed

Looking for a guy with a perfect mix of academic, athletic, and musical abilities? If so, then Matt Schaefermeyer is your man. Not only is he a dedicated student and an excellent basketball player, but he is a consummate pianist as well.

Matt's academic career is a major aspect in his life. He is currently enrolled in AP and AG classes, and has been accepted to UNC Chapel Hill. Matt is also involved in DECA, Beta Club, and National Honor Society. Besides being an "Outstanding Senior," Matt is also a DARE role model for the students at Olde Providence Elementary.

Matt has played basketball for South for the past four years. He is South's only player to be a Charlotte Pro-Am All-Star, for

which he received the Student Athlete Award.

Matt is best known for his exceptional musical abilities. He has played the piano for twelve years and enjoys performing all types of music. He was the Grand Prize winner in the Young Artist Competition and he played with the Charlotte Symphony in 1996. Matt has graced South with his talents by performing in both Senior Follies and in Evening of Culture.

When Matt finds a rare moment to relax, he enjoys listening to, playing, or writing music. He can be seen driving around South in what he claims to be "the best car in the parking lot." This is a perfect example of the quick wit that people have grown to love from Matt Schaefermeyer, South's very own "piano man."

*What was your most memorable moment at South this school year?*

"The times in my theater class, because you have a chance to be someone you're not."

Gordon Franklin, 10th

"I enjoyed battling the inevitable for good grades, and most of all I applaud my incredible procession of interesting teachers!!"

Doug Lavoye, 11th

"Being on the swim team and meeting a lot of new people."

Erik Sjolander, 12th

"Meeting new people, and being able to carry on lifelong friendships."

Yolanda Stanton, 11th

"Spring Break because I met new people and had a good time away from school and reality."

Becky Orr, 10th

"Running track for South Meck; it's a fun experience."

Camille Lee, 9th

"The first day of school. Everyone was really nice, and I didn't have to sing."

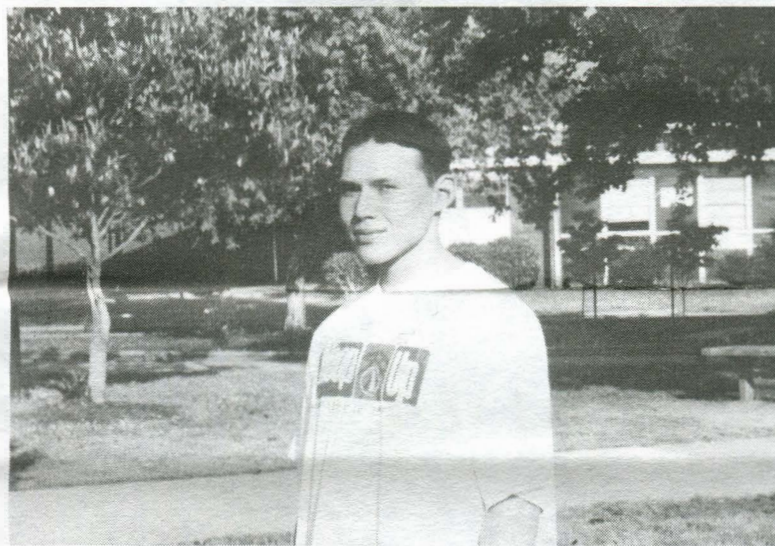
Alex Manzanarez, 9th



Staff Photographer

Name: Jackie Gause  
Favorite Ice Cream: Vanilla  
College: UNC-G

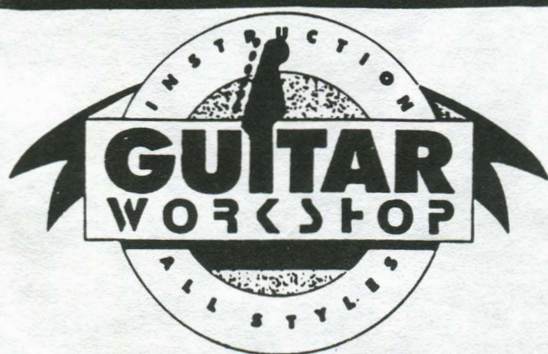
Musical Act: Puff Daddy  
Pet Peeve: People who aren't serious  
Birthday: March 9, 1980



Staff Photographer

Name: Matt Schaefermeyer  
Birthday: February 1, 1980

Pet Peeve: Fake people  
Music: R&B and Rap  
Favorite Color: Any shade of blue  
Role Models: Kind-hearted people



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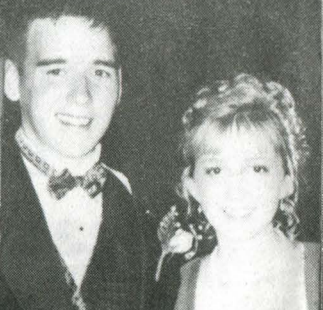
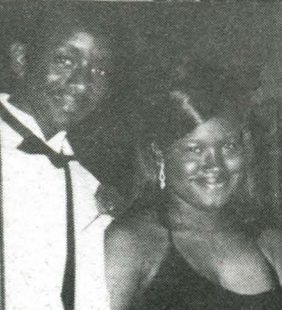
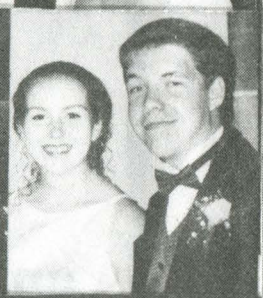
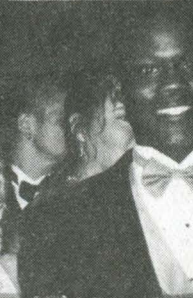
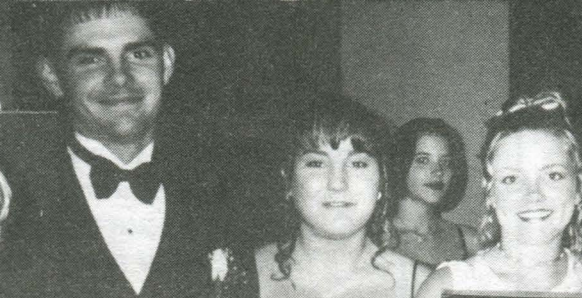
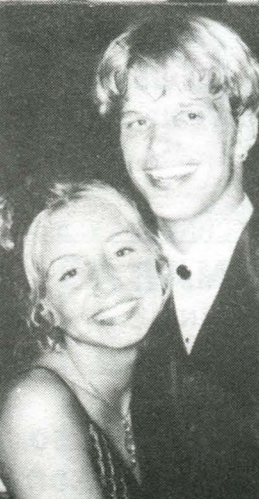
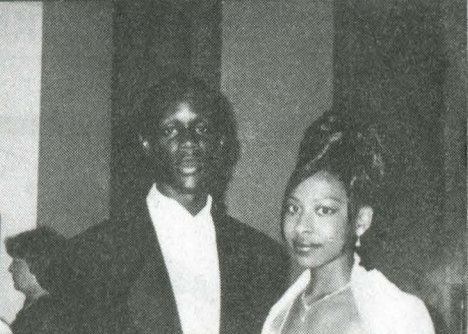
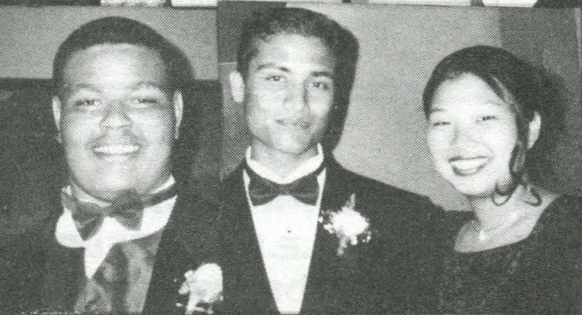
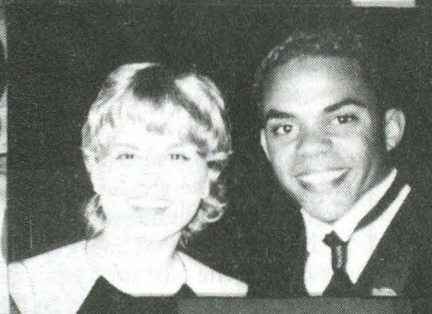
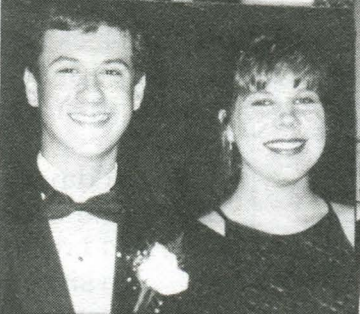
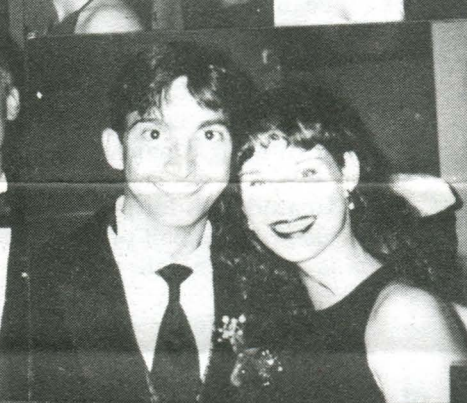
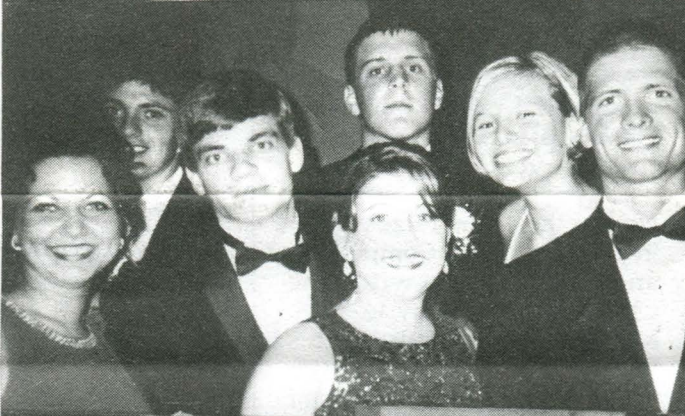
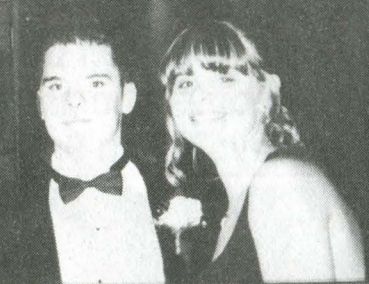
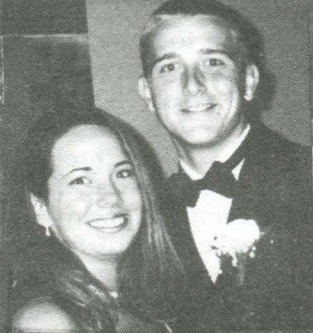
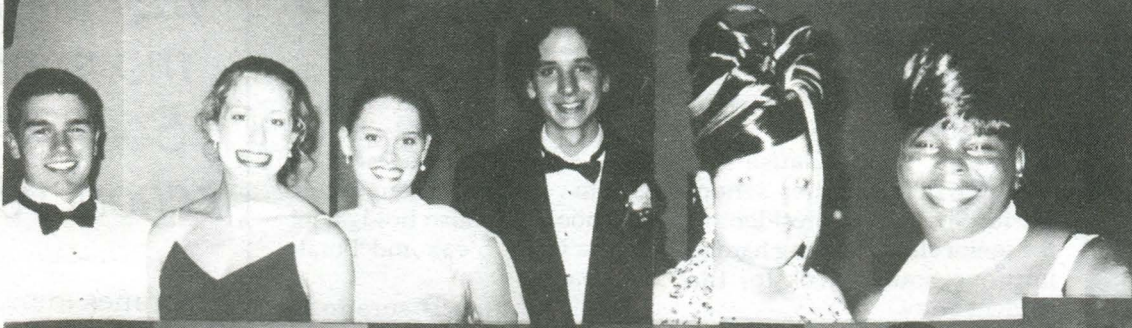
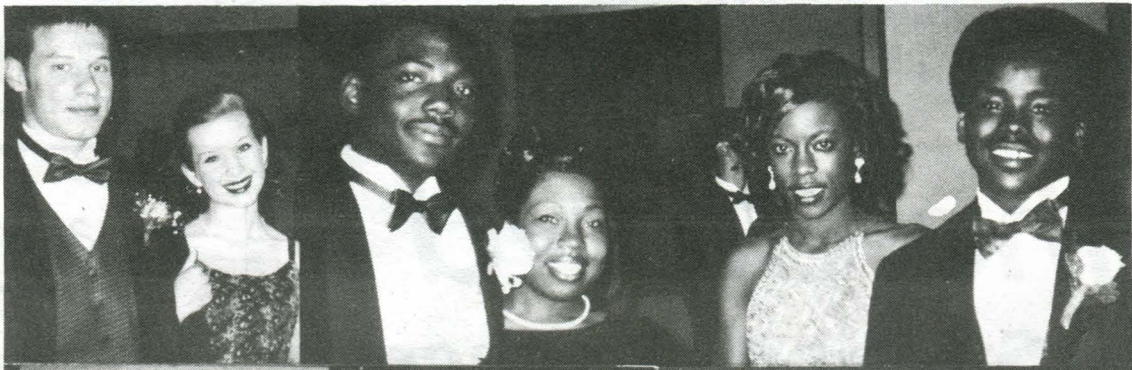
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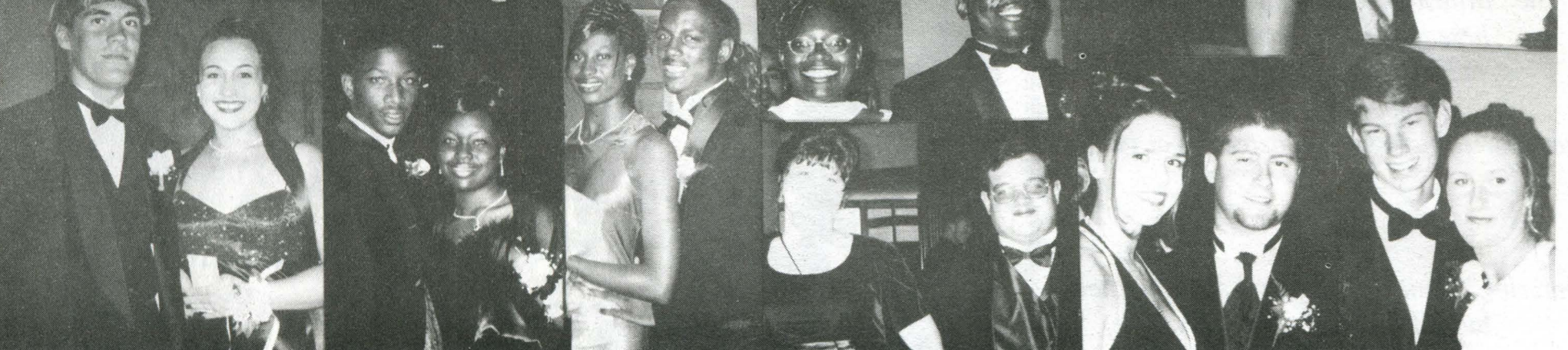
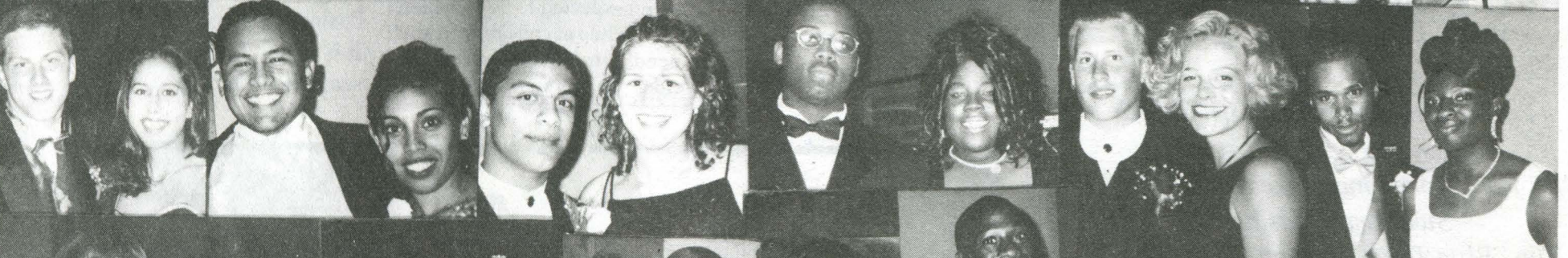
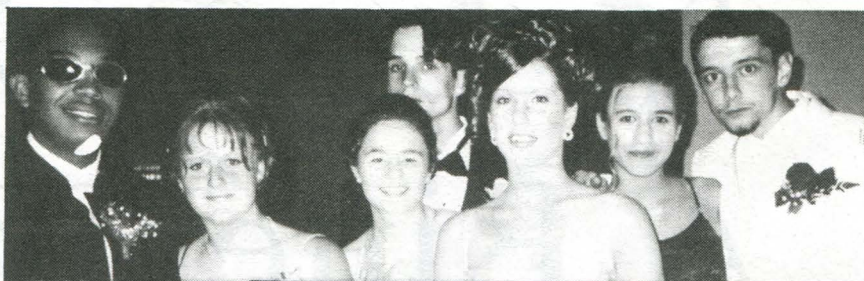


# *A Night*

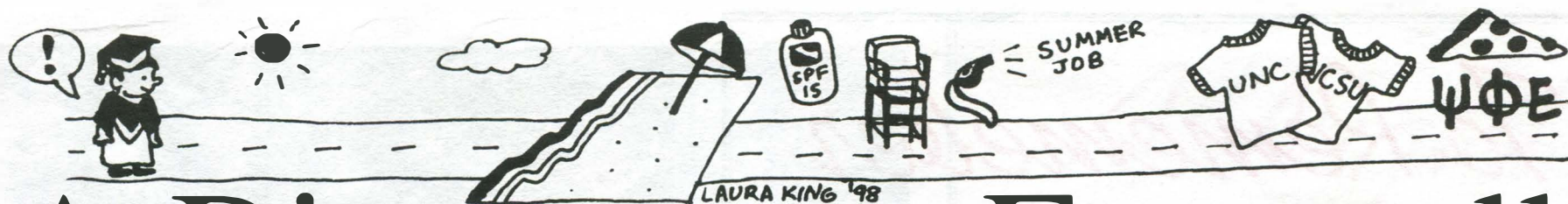




# To Remember







# A Bittersweet Farewell

## Do you remember when...

- There was a Key Club
- Senior guys were cute
  - Mr. Wells left
  - Dr. Knox came
- Exam exemptions began
  - We loved Pep Rallies
- We had a student cheering section
  - We had school spirit
- There was a Junior/Senior parking lot
- The principal laughed at "bushings"
- We had more students than Midwood
  - We had a class of 700
- The first time we had drug dogs
  - We had to go to gym
- There was no Senior Exit
  - We had a bomb scare
- No one was arrested during Spring Break
  - There was no "A" Building
  - We had lockout
- Freshmen took the school bus
- Seniors sat on the Senior Patio
  - Humanities Projects
- The stressful writing tests
  - Mr. Turner was here
- Freshmen feared the seniors
  - We feared the senior class
  - Guidance was in the Mall
- The Marching Band was small
  - Life before AOL
  - Snow days and frozen buses
- Early release and late arrival for everyone
  - We had a pretty courtyard with grass
- Seniors took even more math at UNCC
  - The main office was in the mall
- Ms. Bower and Ms. Thomas were here
  - We had homecoming parades around the campus
- People dressed up for Spirit Week
  - Oklahoma was performed
- Mr. Rose looked more like Mr. Machado
  - Swat team was here
- The "Blue Team" was on the rampage
  - There was no "Green Gator"
  - We had three rocks out front
  - Officer Earl was here
- They started using metal detectors at games

\*\*\*

Memories. Some are fond and some are not,  
but all will last a lifetime.

\*\*\*

## Words of wisdom from the Senior English teachers

*Dear seniors, here are some words of wisdom from the teachers who led us on our way to success. They have guided our way through the SEP and helped shape our moral foundation. They have challenged our intellect and set the path for discovering who we are.*

"Like an old field, that's how you want your soul to grow--more beautiful with each passing day."

- Ian Kutner

"Within each of us lies the power of our consent to health and to sickness, to riches and to poverty, to freedom and to slavery. It is we who control these and none other."

- Mrs. Young

Seniors:

"How dull it is to pause, to make an end, To rust unburnished, not to shine in use!...Come, my friends, 'Tis not too late to seek a newer world."

- "Ulysses," Tennyson

"To thine own self be true."  
- Hamlet, Shakespeare

- Mrs. Wasson

Dear Seniors,

Let there be no George Grays among you. Catch the wind!

Love,  
Mrs. Miklos

**George Gray(1915)**  
Edgar Lee Masters

I have studied many times  
The marble that was chiseled for me-  
A boat with a furled sail at rest in a harbor.  
In truth it pictures not my destination  
But my life.  
For love was offered me,  
and I shrank from its disillusionment:  
Sorrow knocked at my door,  
but I was afraid:  
Ambition called to me,  
but I dreaded the chances.  
Yet all the while I hungered for meaning in my life  
And now I know that we must lift the sail  
And catch the winds of destiny  
Wherever they drive the boat.  
To put meaning in one's life may end in madness,  
But life without meaning is torture  
Of restlessness and vague desire-  
It is a boat longing for the sea and yet afraid.

## College Survival Guide

Here is a quick list of "must have" items to ensure a comfortable escape from home.

1. Oscillating fans. You can never have too few, according to some college bound seniors. Especially when the dorms don't have AC.

2. Pop-Tarts. A staple of life for many people. They work marvelously as a breakfast or a quick snack after a long study session.

3. Quarters for the laundry machines. This way you can extend the life of your clothes between visits home.

4. ALL small household appliances. Let's face it, you need a coffemaker, but let's not forget the importance of a blender and a wok.

5. Extra left socks to keep the

lonely right socks happy after fighting off the "Dryer Monster."

6. An umbrella for those days that you drag yourself to class in the middle of a monsoon.

7. A computer with an e-mail hook-up. How on earth do you plan to survive without AOL?

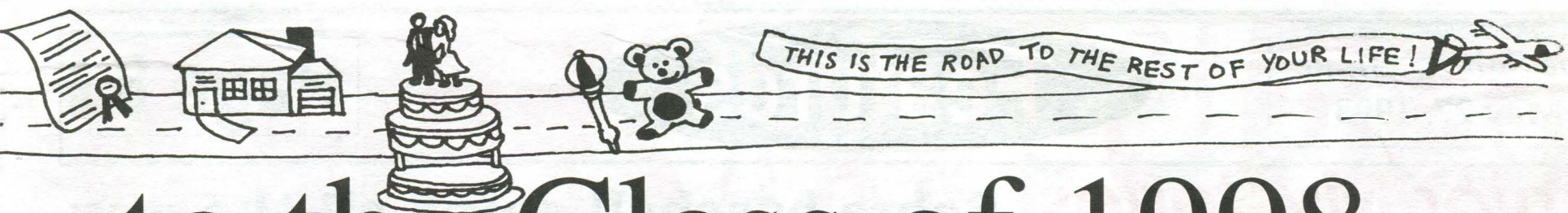
8. Playing cards. You will never have to tell your mom that you have developed a Bridge fetish of your own.

9. The rug from the foyer. No matter how much you dislike that paisley pattern, you will be thankful for having it when you wake up this winter.

10. Clothes. Even though you aren't expected to be a fashion guru while at college, you still need some cool clothes, so stock up this summer.







# to the Class of 1998

Layout: the senior staff of  
the Sabres' Blade

## Goodbyes from the Senior Staff of the Sabres' Blade

**By Gia Clements**

I will dress in red and black accidentally. I will sing the fight song in the shower. I will roll my eyes at parking lot traffic. I will smile at teens singing loudly in their cars. I will whine when I have to take mid-terms. I will make new friends but miss my best friend. I will cry when I get my diploma and toss my cap. I will always be a Sabre in my heart.

**By Leah Reed**

The first day I stepped onto South's campus, I was excited and scared. Now as I prepare to leave, I am once again scared and excited. These past few years at South have been incredible and I will remember them always. From the Friday night football games, to the weekend parties, to the cramming for major tests, high school has been a great adven-

ture, an experience in learning, loving, and living. To the graduating class of 1998, congratulations—we did it! The road was long, but the journey was definitely worth the ride. Although our parting comes with sorrow, remember, the best is yet to come! Congratulations graduates—I'll miss you!

**By Andrew Dyer**

It has been almost four years since we started as freshmen at South. It is hard to believe we are almost finished. In our four years here, many of us have changed. South has helped us mature into adults, and protected us from many of the dangerous things other schools face. The scariest thing I ever dealt with was 11th grade vocabulary. Being here has made a tremendous impact on my life, and the "old" saying is true. South Meck is the foun-

dation for your future. Have fun.

**By Jennifer Collins**

Over the course of the past four years, the class of '98 has learned many lessons; the greatest of them is that life is what you make of it. South is special to all of us for different reasons, but, we all share that unique Sabre sparkle in our hearts. When the final day of class comes, a small piece of who we are will remain. As we walk across the decorated stage at graduation, a transition from student to alumni occurs. At that moment, we are no longer one body; we become individuals and follow our own paths. Although our paths are leading us in different directions, our hearts will remain close. As the saying goes, "The greatest things in life are those that occur for a short period of time,

but change your life forever." Good luck, good bye, and God bless the Sabre class of '98. Thanks for the memories...

**By Matt Strother**

With graduation just around the corner, the end is finally in sight. It is hard to believe that four years ago we walked into the school as freshmen. I have experienced a lot in the years since then. I was here when Dr. Knox became principal, and exam exemption went into effect. I also can't forget my three years in marching band. Some of the greatest times I have had have been with the band. The friendships I have made, the numerous football games, and competitions are all memories I will not forget. In fact, South Meck holds so many good memories that it is impossible to write them all down. Then there is the question: "Is South

Meck really the foundation for your future?" The answer is definitely a resounding "Yes!" It has prepared me well for college. I will always think of South Meck with pride, and will never forget the four years that I have spent here.

**By Tanikkia L. Tyson**

My experiences at South have become a blur; so much has happened in the past three years that it is difficult to remember it all. I would like to give a farewell to my best friends and to the teachers who helped me to get through difficult semesters, especially Ms. Smith. Thank you for those encouraging words. To those of you who have not found your niche in the famous halls of South Meck, remember there's always next year.

## Where are we heading?

**By Gia Clements**

Whichever path in life you choose, I hope that it is one that brings you happiness. Our paths will lead us in different directions; this is nothing new. I hope that despite time and distance we manage to grow from our experiences here at South, and not be caught up by greed and fame.

Many former Sabres have returned to South to talk to the senior class. Many of them were shocked by the reality of college life. Their expectations of college life were false. College freshmen tend to take the definition of freedom to a whole new level. For many, it is the first time away from the watchful eye of parents. Everyone likes to have a

good time and college is the perfect opportunity to do so. Just make sure that you leave yourself time to make something of your education. When you graduate from college, companies will be looking at your transcripts. No matter how well you did in high school, one mistake in college could cost you a career. So remember, never underestimate the importance of sleep or sobriety.

So you think you're ready for college? Let's check. Do you know how to create a culinary masterpiece in the microwave? Can you wash your socks in the sink while reciting a poem in German? Can you kill mammoth size insects while typing on the com-

puter? Can you tell your mom that you miss her too—and mean it? Practice over the summer, I find that it is the perfect thing to do while home alone on a rainy day! Just make sure you're ready before you leave this fall.

Whether you're heading to a junior college, a prestigious private college, or a state university (go Tar Heels!), have fun and enjoy this time of your life. Success requires a lot of work. So please make sure that the fun you have is in equal amounts to the time you spend on academics. Everyone is going to want to make a good impression in ten years when we have our first reunion!

## Time Of Your Life by Green Day

Another turning point, a fork stuck in the road. Time grabs you by the wrist, directs you where to go. So make the best of this test, and don't ask why. It's not a question, but a lesson learned in time. It's something unpredictable, but in the end is right. I hope you had the time of your life.

So take the photographs, and still frames in your mind. Hang it on a shelf of good health and good time. Tattoos of memories and dead skin on trial. For what it's worth, it was worth all the while. I hope you had the time of your life.

## Four Years of Style

**By Gia Clements**

Ahhh...fashion, a curse for many of us. The struggle to stay "in style" seems to be as constant as the coming and going of trends. The past four years have been no exception.

When thinking back to our freshman year I remember Keds and stacked heel lace-up boots. Also popular at that time were slip-on cowboy boots, and colored jeans. Winter styles included thermal shirts and plaid for everyone.

It seems a far cry from the boot-cut leggings and 3-inch heels that freshmen today wear.

Moving on to tenth grade, it is easy to remember the frenzy for little plaid skirts with knee-highs, and Mary Janes. Footwear was a big deal in the spring, especially with colorful Teva's, Samba's, and Reebok sandals. All of these shoes looked best with cute baby-doll tees that could be found everywhere.

Then, in eleventh grade many were relieved to see that bell-bottoms were back in style. I believe Mrs. Berry led the way with that trend.

Our twelfth grade class is one of true individuals. We cross the lines with our own fashions but perhaps it's just because we're so special. So stay comfy in big baggy carpenter jeans or strut your stuff in boot-cut leggings. We were made to be individuals.

## Commencement of the Senior Class of 1998

will be held at Eleven-thirty on  
June 5 at Independence Arena.

We wish the seniors well on  
their future endeavors and send  
our love and admiration to each  
of them.



## Senior Mysteries

## Sabre baseball going all the way



By Laura King

This smiling, bright-eyed senior is always up for a good time. Well known for her singing talent, she participated in Senior Follies in February. This senior can usually be found at Interkey meetings or driving to Young Life gatherings in her VW Golf on Monday nights. This senior is also a valuable asset to the varsity soccer team, both for her skill and for her commendable character. Although she is famous for her excess energy and endless antics, this senior mystery always manages to channel her energy and find her focus on the field. She plans to attend Lees - McRae College next year on a soccer scholarship. If you still don't know who this senior mystery is, check out Page 3 for the answer.



By Nicole Ewing

This senior mystery is one of the most outgoing, cheerful seniors ever to grace the senior class. Her current resume includes a very impressive list of activities all around Charlotte. She is president of SOS, Debate, and Gospel Choir, Senior Class Treasurer, and a member of a number of other clubs. She is also one of the Outreach leaders at Mount Mariah Baptist Church. This summer, she will be driving her 1997 red Nissan Sentra to First Union National Bank, where she will be working as a paid intern. Next year, she plans to attend Clark Atlanta University and major in business and psychology. She may be extremely busy and involved, but a smile never leaves her face. Any guesses? See Page 3 for the answer.

By Laura King

On May 8th, the Sabre baseball team capped off a great season with a surprising win over Providence in the Southwestern 4A conference championship. They reached the final, following a 4-2 victory over Independence. Coach Bagwell had his team well prepared for the challenge. Providence has been a team that has often overshadowed South Meck; they were the conference champions last season. But rather than make the Sabres feel as if they had to win, the South coaches simply told their players to have fun, and that the pressure was all on Providence.

The strategy seemed to work, as the Sabres thoroughly handled the Panthers. Corey Wood pitched his best game of the season, striking out seven and walking only two. The victory was definitely a team effort,

however, as numerous players came through with key plays. "If I were asked to name the game's most valuable player, I would have just whipped out the roster and started reading off names," said Coach Bagwell. Corey Wood claimed the game-winning hit in the fifth inning, and the Sabres took home a 4-0 win and a conference title.

All season long, it has been the same story for the Sabres. They are a very emotional team. "They play with their hearts," said Coach Bagwell. At the conclusion of the title game, the team celebrated by hoisting their pitcher (Wood) on their shoulders and parading around.

The Sabres are characterized by team unity and determination. They have constantly defied the odds this season, winning the games they weren't supposed to win. "They truly

believe in themselves and when they apply this mentality, they can achieve any goal they set," said Bagwell.

The team is not yet finished; however, they still have the state playoffs, and they plan to go all the way. They intend to continue the same program they have used all season, but also admit that they need to clean up their defense some. The victory over Providence supplies the confidence they need to aim for the state title. Coach Bagwell proudly states, "Our team works as hard as any team around; they deserve this win and to get as far in these state playoffs as their pride and talent will take them."

*At the time of this publishing, the Sabres have advanced in the state playoffs with a 9-3 victory over Independence, improving their record to 18-8.*

## 1998-1999 Student Council Officers

### Executive Council

President: Montee Rogers Vice President: Marja Franklin Secretary: Rhonda Gray  
General Members: Elizabeth Berry, Jimmy Kimball, Dena King

### Senior Class Council

President: Mike Ballenger  
Vice President: Kyle Robinson  
General Members: Joan Brown, Chris Carter, Josh Loftin, and Michelle Love

### Junior Class Council

President: Nick Fadel  
Vice President: Amy Ross  
General Members: Megan Doughton, Graham Long, Rehema Primus, and Cameron Stinson

### Sophomore Class Council

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Vice President: Jennifer Ross  
General Members: Haley Houghton and Meisha Covington

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## Drama News

The Theater IV class presented four student-written and directed plays on Tuesday and Wednesday, May 5 and 6 in the auditorium. Presented were *Cryptic Destinies* by Melissa Paradise, *Crackers and Caviar* by Karen Williams, *My Sister* by Anna Williamson, and *Stereotypical Murder* by Mike Hopkins. Congratulations to the Theater IV students, as well as Ms. Guzman and Ms. Curl.

### Congratulations and Best Wishes 1998 Senior Band Graduates



Elisabeth Ashcraft  
Dominique McFadden  
Ed Caraway  
Corey Robinson  
Gia Clements  
Leeland Rothrock  
Adrian Damiano  
Matthew Strother  
Aaron Crick  
Aprael Strutts  
Monique Douglas  
Kim Taylor  
Crystal Muse  
Brent Townsend  
Jonathan James  
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